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TABLE OF CONTENTS FOR AND EXCERPTS FROM
"THE SOVIET ARCTIC, ITS SEAS AND ISLANDS"

This physico-geographical description of the Soviet Arctic is one of the popular scientific series Nature of the USSR, published by the Institute of Geography, Academy of Sciences USSR. This book was written by a group of authors, including V. Yu. Vize, G. V. Gorbatskiy, V. N. Saks, B. N. Gorodkov, and G. P. Gorbunov, deceased. The series was edited by Academician A. A. Grigor'yev and Doctor Professor G. D. Rikhter. The individual sections were edited by specialists -- Doctor Professor Ye. M. Lavrenko (vegetation), Doctor Professor A. N. Formozov (animal world), etc. A. A. Ul'yanov was responsible for the cartographic editing of the entire series.

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EXCERPTS

From "Extent of Study of Arctic"

In Tsarist Russia, there were only four polar meteorological stations (Yugorskiy Shar, Vaygach, Mare-Sale, Dikson); but by the beginning of 1946, there were 60 stations on the polar shore of the continent and on islands of the Soviet Arctic. The meteorological polar radio station in the eastern mouth of Matochkin Shar, constructed in 1923, was the first built under the Soviet regime. The station on Rudolph Island (Franz Josef Land) is the northernmost polar station in the Soviet Arctic and in the world. In 1946, there were six permanent geophysical observatories in the Soviet Arctic; namely, Bukhta Tikhaya (Franz Josef Land), Matochkin Shar, Dikson Island, Cape Chelyuskin, Bukhta Tiksi, and Uelen (Bering Strait). These observatories make meteorological, hydrological, aerological, actinometric, geomagnetic, and, in part, ionospheric observations.

From "Climate"

Gives a general description of the climate of the Arctic seas and islands by seasons. Zubov's two maps on the distribution of average atmospheric pressure and direction of equivalent wind in winter and in summer are reprinted. Tables given include: yearly behavior of wind velocity; number of days with storm winds greater than 15 meters per second for Bukhta Tikhaya, Malye Karakuly, and Vrangeli Island; number of days with snowstorms for seven points; number of days with precipitation for seven points; average monthly temperatures for June, July, and August for 13 points, including stations Fram and Severnyy Polyus; number of days with fog in June, July, and August for six points; and number of days with snow in June, July, and August for seven points.

Also, a table is given on the "severity of the weather" from January through March for seven points, calculated from Bodman's formula which expresses the weather as a function of the air temperature and wind velocity. Some emphasis is given to the probability of cloudiness in the Soviet Arctic, e.g., "the probability of an overcast sky in September exceeds 80 percent in most of the Soviet Arctic, reaching 90 percent in some places, (Cape Schmidt, for example)"; "the probability of a clear sky in the Soviet Arctic is about 30 percent in March and about 25 percent in April"; and "the probability of an overcast sky in the outer seas of the Soviet Arctic in the summer is 65-85 percent".

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